The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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REGISTER! VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

WHOLE NO. 1848 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 36, NO. 37

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The tenth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

The Other Side of the Ship Strike

By NELSON CRUIKSHANK

Social Insurance Director of the AFL

One of the strangest situations in the history of labor relations has forced the shipping strike which is now tying up all American ports.

There is no dispute between labor and management involved in this strike. On the contrary, the shipowners and the Seafarers International Union of the American Federation of Labor reached a satisfactory agreement through voluntary collective bargaining. Both sides are anxious to carry out this agreement. But the Government—or to be more accurate, one agency of the Government—has stopped them.

This is the worst case of bureaucratic meddling and unintelligent Federal interference on record. It is also a dangerous example of political pressures dictating Government decisions. Here are the facts:

A few months ago the Maritime unions of the CIO threatened a strike for higher wages. The Government called them into Washington for a conference with the shipowners. A wage settlement was forced on the shipowners and the strike was averted.

At that time the Secretary of Labor urged President Harry Lundeberg, of the AFL Seafarers Union to join the conference. He declined, preferring to meet with the shipowners and settle joint problems through free collective bargaining. By this process the union was successful in negotiating wage increases higher than those obtained by the CIO unions.

The contract was submitted to the War Shipping Administration, which operates merchant ships for the Government and approved by it, too. However, Federal regulations require this agency to submit wage questions to the Wage Stabilization Board for a final okay. It did so. The union and management joined in this request to the Wage Stabilization Board. But the Board rejected the agreement. The public and industry members voted against approval with the labor members dissenting.

In explanation, the Government agency told the Seafarers' International Union that it would refuse to approve wage increases higher than those obtained by the CIO. The difference amounted to $5 a month for sailors on the West Coast and $10 a month on the East Coast.

The Wage Stabilization Board will never convince organized labor or the American people that any threat of inflation is contained in this relatively trivial amount for workers who are not and never have been highly paid. Nor will it make the American people believe that they should suffer through the paralysis of commerce of the entire nation because of a donkey-minded Board's stupid decision.

The Seafarers' International Union and its members know that their cause is just and they intend to remain out on strike until the Wage Stabilization Board reconsiders its decision. They can be assured of the full support of the American Federation of Labor.

The Veterans Demand Action

By BORIS SHISHKIN

Secretary of the AFL Housing Committee

All over the country, people are getting more and more impatient over the fact that they can't find a decent place to live. This is especially true of the veterans who came back from the war eager to settle down in civilian life but are still unable to beg, borrow, rent or buy a home.

Their indignation crystallized last Thursday at the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Boston, where 14,000 aroused delegates overrode a noncommital resolution on housing and overwhelmingly endorsed the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill.

This action was voted only a few hours after President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the delegates that construction is bound to lag far behind the need and demand for new homes until the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill is adopted by Congress.

He pointed out that this is the only legislative proposal that provides for large-scale housing projects at prices that the majority of veterans can afford. Under the bill, the construction industry will again be able to undertake the building of rental housing, which is not now being produced even though it is most urgently needed. Finally, the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill will centralize all Federal authority over housing in one, single agency and end once and for all the existing surplus of bureaucratic confusion which all of us deplore.

The vote of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on this issue was indicative of the grass-roots revolt throughout the nation against inaction. The veterans even went so far as to demand that President Truman call a special session of Congress to complete action on the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, which was approved by the Senate last summer but blocked by powerful lobbying interests in the House.

Unfortunately, the President said at a press conference later that he did not intend to call such a special session because he thought members of Congress should be permitted to conduct their campaigns for reelection without interference.

But if any Congressman thinks he can evade this issue during the campaign, he will find himself painfully mistaken. The American Federation of Labor is polling each candidate in every congressional district on this issue. The American people have a right to know where the candidates stand on the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill before they vote in November. And it should be obvious by now that American workers and veterans intend to support those who favor this vital legislation.

Another important development in housing came this week when the United States Emergency Court of Appeals flatly and unanimously rejected the demands of New York landlords for higher rents.

The landlords claimed that with their costs going up, continued application of strict rent controls would prove ruinous to them. In fact, while the court case was pending, real estate boards in many cities organized a campaign to force the OPA to allow landlords a general 15 percent rent increase.

But the Court looked into the facts carefully and it found that landlords are making greater profits under rent ceilings today than they did when there were no restrictions before the war—in spite of undeniably higher operating costs.

This is true primarily because all rental housing is now filled to the rafters. The normal loss that the landlords were once forced to take on vacant apartments and houses has disappeared. Besides, property owners are no longer providing repairs and new decorating jobs free of charge, as they used to, nor are they giving tenants the kind of service they did before the war.

The effect of the court's decision is to prevent a breakthrough in rent ceilings, which is good news to all tenants.

Mine Operators Pay 2½ Millions Into UMW Welfare-Pension Fund

Washington, D. C.—The welfare and retirement fund, provided under the bituminous wage agreement signed by the United Mine Workers (AFL) on May 29, already has accumulated $2,500,000, Admiral Ben Moreell, Federal coal mines administrator, announced here.

The money represents the first payment, on August 15, by coal producers, of a contribution of 5 cents on each ton of their output between June 1 and July 15. The next payment is due September 15, and thereafter payments will be made on a monthly basis.

The bituminous coal mines have been in Government possession since May 22, when wage negotiations collapsed. In a preliminary report, Rear Admiral W. J. Carter, Navy paymaster general and custodian of the fund, reported satisfactory progress in collecting the fund levy.

Admiral Carter will handle the fund until three trustees are appointed under the terms of the agreement worked out by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug and John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' chief.

The fund is to be used for payments to miners and their dependents or survivors for temporary or permanent disabilities or death and for retirement and other welfare purposes. The payments are intended to make up for lack of or insufficient compensation under Federal and State laws.

No expenditures will be made from the fund until the three trustees have been appointed and an accounting has been made.

Under the agreement, Admiral Moreell and Mr. Lewis will each name a trustee; then these two trustees will select the third.

Meanwhile, the UMW negotiating committee opened conferences here with coal operators, the first such sessions since the Government seized the mines. The conferences were called by Admiral Moreell.

There seemed little doubt that Mr. Lewis' minimum terms are those contained in the Government contract.

These called for an hourly pay increase of 18½ cents for the 400,000 soft coal miners; the 5-cent royalty on each ton of coal for the miners' welfare and retirement fund, and adoption of a Federal mine safety code.

AFL Ship Tie-Up Is 100% Effective As Seamen Stand Firm on Demands

Washington, D. C.—Reports from every port in the Nation proved to Government officials that the shipping tie-up called by the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Seafarers Union, both AFL, was 100 percent effective, with not a single ship moving on the Atlantic, Gulf or Pacific Coasts.

Meanwhile, in line with the stand taken by AFL President William Green, pledging full support to the maritime workers in their demand for the full benefits they received under a collective bargaining agreement with shipowners, unions throughout the country flooded the leaders of the two unions with telegrams of approval and all-out aid.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), in a message to Harry Lundeberg, leader of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, said:

"The United Mine Workers of America send greetings. We admire the splendid courage and the fighting ability of the members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific. Of course you will win.

"Several days ago I urged the American Federation of Labor to withdraw its representative from that economic boars' nest that calls itself a wage stabilization board. If you need money, advise me."

This attack upon the Wage Stabilization Board was a reiteration of the resentment of AFL union leaders against the agency which denied the seamen the fruits of the agreement they had reached with the ship owners at a time when the board, like the OPA, had no legal existence due to the refusal for a time of Congress to extend their powers beyond June 30.

Though the ship operators had agreed to a raise of $22.50 a month for the Sailors and $27.50 for the Seafarers, the board ruled no increase could be given above $17.50.

As the strike spread through other unions associated with the maritime industry it was estimated that the number of idle had grown to some 500,000. Pier warehouses were jammed with unmovable goods.

That the unions will not back down was the emphatic declaration of Lundeberg, who said:

"The AFL seamen are determined to continue our strike until the politicians in Washington do what they should have done in the first place as a matter of justice and of statute law—approve our agreement with the ship owners."

Though the Secretary of Labor and officials of the Maritime Commission and other agencies have been in frequent conference with President Truman since the dispute came to a head, there was no definite indication of what, if any, action the White House would take.

It was generally agreed, however, that the paralyzing effect of the tie-up would force the board to rescind its decision and approve the agreement negotiated independently by the unions and the ship owners.

NLRB Head Denies Free Speech Gag

Atlantic City.—Free speech is still sacred in America and there is nothing in the National Labor Relations Act which would change this, NLRB Chairman Paul M. Herzog assured 600 delegates to the 60th annual convention of the Printing Industry of America.

Declaring that it "has not yet been the fate" of the NLRA to be accepted by everyone, Herzog said:

"It is our opinion, as reflected in repeated decisions, that it was not the intent of Congress, through the labor act, to forbid an employer to express opinions as to labor unions, so long as his expressions do not constitute acts or threats of discrimination or intimidation, or denial of his employes' uninhibited exercise of their right to organize free from employer interference."

Mr. Herzog said that the object of the concern of the NLRB members in so-called "free speech" cases in interference with a right rather than with an utterance concerning that right. He said that the right involved is the right that holds that employes are entitled to, and shall be protected in the selection of unions of their own choosing.

"The prescription, therefore, runs against coercion rather than against expression," he declared. "The question in every such case is whether, in fact, the employer's conduct does or does not constitute coercion. If it does, he cannot successfully invoke the Constitution of the United States. If it does not, that same Constitution provides him with an impregnable shield."

MEANY ATTACKS WFTU AS RED FIFTH COLUMN

Atlantic City. — George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, delivered a blistering attack on the World Federation of Trade Unions before 1,500 delegates attending the opening session of the 25th annual convention of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters (AFL) in session here.

Declaring the WFTU "is the Soviet's fifth column, which it hopes to use at a later date," Mr. Meany told the delegates:

"The AFL was unalterably opposed to the World Federation of Trade Unions, whose formation two years ago was brought about by Russia. The AFL has refused to join because there are no true trade unions in Russia.

"I am certain we can live in peace with Russia, but we must let her know that as much as we desire pace, we are that ready to fight."

Rural Carriers Vote For AFL Affiliation

Detroit.—Marking the first step in the newly inaugurated drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL) to organize 32,000 rural carriers, the National Federation of Rural Letter Carriers voted to affilite with the NALC, delegates to the NALC annual convention were informed. The rural carriers reached this decision at their recent convention in Omaha.

The closing note of the NALC convention in Omaha was pitched on the level of inviting the unaffiliated carriers to pool their strength with all other rural carriers in the organization which now holds the jurisdiction.

Plans are being perfected by the parent group for a vigorous campaign to bring the unaffiliated rural men into the benefits which the larger organization shares.

AFL AUTO UNION WINS PAY RAISE IN MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee, Wis.—Local 232 of the International Union of United Automobile Workers of America (AFL), has a new contract with the Briggs & Stratton Corp. here which represents many distinct gains for the union.

According to Anthony Doria, international secretary-treasurer of the UAW-AFL, some of the bettered conditions were: improved seniority rights, an added week of vacation with pay for employes with five years or more of seniority, with computation of vacation pay also to take in overtime earnings; wage increases of 18½ cents an hour or 18.7 per cent, whichever is greatest for all employes, which will mean a minimum increase of 18½ cents and hour and a possible 27-cents an hour for higher rated employes.

All wage increases, with the exception of the tool room employes, are retroactive to February 1, 1946.

CAR OPERATORS GET RAISE

Chicago, Ill.—District 900 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes (AFL) have just announced a wage increase of 18½ cents an hour for 500 of the North Shore and Milwaukee railroad employes.

TIME CHANGE IS MADE IN PROGRAM FOR COAST

Washington, D. C.—Announcement was made by AFL officials that the regular "Labor-USA" radio program, heard on Pacific Coast stations of the American Broadcasting Co. from 2:45 to 3 p.m. (Pacific time) each Saturday, will be heard from 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. on the West Coast beginning September 28 through November 23.

The change to a later time in the broadcast is expected to be more convenient to listeners.

ROBERT B. COLLINS DIES; VETERAN AFL ORGANIZER

Washington, D. C.—One of the most active organizers of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers, Robert B. Collins, died suddenly at his home in Dunmore, Pa., at the age of 43.

Mr. Collins had been general chairman on the Lackawanna for the Sheet Metal Workers until 10 years ago, at which time he was engaged as a special representative. He took part in many organizing campaigns on railroads in the East. At the time of his death he was a member of the organizing crew of the AFL shopcraft unions on the Pennsylvania.

NEW YORK STATE REPORTS BIG CHILD LABOR DROP

Albany, N. Y.—Edward Corsi, New York State Labor Industrial Commissioner, reports that child labor in that State declined approximately 40 percent this year from the estimated peak of 425,000 children at work in 1944.

PHILADELPHIA MUSICIANS GIVEN 25% PAY RAISE

Philadelphia, Pa.—Local 77, Musicians Union (AFL), won a 25 percent wage increase for its members employed in hotels, night clubs and cafes here. The new scale boosts the pay for musicians from $36 to $72 weekly to $46 up to $90.

AFL Retains Right To Speak For American Labor In ILO

Government Selects Most Representative Workers' Spokesman

Washington, D. C.—In a smashing victory for the American Federation of Labor, the United States Government granted the AFL the right to nominate the American workers' delegate to the world conference of the International Labor Organization, which will open September 19 in Montreal.

Informed of the decision, AFL President William Green immediately named Robert J. Watt, international AFL representative, to continue his service in this post.

Mr. Watt has been the official delegate of American labor in the councils of the International Labor Organization for the last 10 years and is a member of the ILO governing board. He will go to Montreal from the Electrical and Painters' conventions in California.

Commenting upon the decisions of the United States Government to continue to recognize the AFL as the most representative spokesman for all of American labor, Mr. Green said:

"The decision was just, and in accord with the provisions of the constitution of the ILO, which provides that the workers' delegate be selected by the most representative organization in each nation affiliated with the ILO."

Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach's decision, announced by Assistant Secretary of Labor David A. Morse, came as a severe blow to CIO leaders who contended they should be given equal recognition, and that the post of American delegate should be alternated between the two organizations on an annual basis.

From the moment this issue was raised, Mr. Green pursued a militant course, based upon the contention that the AFL, representing the great majority of American workers and a participant for 10 years in ILO councils, should continue in this role.

The action was regarded in many quarters as a death blow to CIO hopes of building up to a position of importance in world labor affairs and placing the AFL far in the forefront.

In making the announcement, Mr. Morse said the CIO would be "invited" to send "advisers" to the AFL delegate. CIO President Murray, irked by the Government's decision, refused.

The decision marked a complete reversal of Mr. Schwellenbach's earlier position. Some months ago he notified the AFL of his plan to place the post of delegate on a rotating plan between the AFL and the CIO.

AFL officials declared, and in this were firmly backed by the AFL Executive Council, that they would refuse to participate in the ILO on this basis. They took the clear-cut stand that the ILO constitution required each nation to consult with its most representative labor organization in the selection of the workers' delegate. The AFL offered to submit proof that it is the most representative workers' organization in America, and, though the CIO conceded this point, it insisted that, nevertheless, it was entitled to representation also.

When it came to a showdown, Mr. Schwellenbach withdrew his previous decision and announced he would recommend that President Truman appoint an AFL member.

In making this final ruling, it was reported that Mr. Schwellenbach yielded to White House pressure, although President Truman told a press conference that the matter had not yet reached him.

In a resolution condemning the original plan to rotate U. S. labor representation in the ILO, the Executive Council said in part:

"This would be a shocking departure from principle and precedent. It seems inconceivable to the Executive Council that the United States Government should jeopardize its integrity by following such a course.

"For the Government to make such a decision on an arbitrary basis, contrary to the facts and merely for the purpose of political appeasement, would be a violation of its commitments under the treaty which made the United States a member of the International Labor Organization.

"This is more than a mere question of rivalry between two labor organizations. The honor and integrity of the United States Government in its dealings with other nations are involved. These are too precious to be bargained away for a mess of political pottage."

Green Says Government 'Stupidity' Compelled AFL Seamen to Strike

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Government "stupidity" alone is responsible for the seamen's strike, AFL President William Green declared here in an attack on the Wage Stabilization Board.

In an address before the convention of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association, Mr. Green vigorously assailed Government dictation in matters which unions and employers attempt to settle between themselves.

"Here is an instance," he declared, "where responsibility for interference with transportation and production rests squarely with an agency of the Government.

"What we need is less Government control in fixing wages. We want to be free men who can sell their labor under their terms and not be compelled to work under wages fixed by the Government.

"That is Communism, and we don't have any Communism in the American Federation of Labor."

Citing the gradual disintegration of the CIO, he referred particularly to "two great unions, which discovered they had made a mistake and came back home." He was making reference, he added, to the United Mine Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers, both of which returned to the AFL after an earlier affiliation with the CIO.

Truman Lauds Fire Fighters For Contributions To Safety

Toledo, Ohio.—High praise for the firemen throughout the Nation, and of the great contributions made by the International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL) to improvement of safety was expressed by President Truman as delegates to the annual convention of the association gathered here to review progress of the last year and chart a course for the next 12 months.

In a letter to John P. Redmond, acting president of the association since the death May 15 of President Fred M. Baer, Mr. Truman said:

"Please extend my felicitations to the delegates and members of the International Association of Fire Fighters meeting in Toledo, and my best wishes for a gathering that will be successful in every respect.

"I am certain the people of this Nation appreciate the outstanding work which the fire fighters did during the war and they also appreciate that fire fighters both on the home front and battle front have always exhibited real courage and high fidelity. I know that on this occasion my fellow Americans will join me in paying this tribute to the fire fighters of our Nation.

"The work of your Association in behalf of the members of the fire service of the Nation has been outstanding. I am aware of your organization's great contribution in the field of fire prevention and fire protection. The improvements that have been made for the members of the fire service are the direct result of the work of your Association."

President Redmond, in a comprehensive report to the convention, detailed the progress made and the problems yet to be met on such issues as pensions, a shorter work week and a higher wage scale.

Secretary-Treasurer George J. Richardson told the convention 78 new locals have been chartered in cities during the last two years, several others which had dropped their affiliation were reinstated and nine charters were issued to fire fighters employed in Federal agencies. He reported that the membership has been expanded by 11,380, and predicted a further increase as fire fighters who were drafted into the armed forces return to their original jobs. Salaries have been increased in a number of cities where the fire fighters have been increasing their strength, he said.

President Asks Nation to Observe 'Employ-the-Handicapped Week'

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has issued a proclamation designating the week of October 6 to 12 as "National Employ-the-Handicapped" week to place capable disabled persons in jobs.

The action stemmed in part from official Government reports showing that four out of every five disabled veterans applying for jobs at public employment offices in the first half of this year have not been placed, despite the fact that a careful survey has shown that disabled workers in general have proven themselves more efficient than able-bodied fellow workers.

Government agencies, headed by the Veterans Administration and the Labor Department, have joined in spearheading a drive to convince employers that it is good business to employ a disabled worker if he can produce more than a plant's other workers. They have directed their argument toward a dollar-and-cents issue and efficiency, rather than an appeal to patriotism.

Reporting on a careful study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department, the VA declared:

"Disabled veterans experience one-third fewer serious accidents than able-bodied workers exposed to identical work hazards. The study placed the accident frequency rate for impaired workers at 8.3 injuries per 1,000,000 man hours worker, compared with 11.8 for unimpaired workers.

"Time lost because of disabling injuries was the same for impaired and unimpaired employes, 0.1 day per 100 scheduled work days.

"During the six months covered by the survey, none of the injuries sustained by disabled workers resulted in additional permanent impairments. Furthermore, no instances were reported of handicapped workers causing injuries to able-bodied fellow employes.

"The survey, conducted between January 1 and July 1, 1946, studied the performances of 4,000 physically handicapped and 6,400 able-bodied employes in 47 manufacturing plants. The study matched handicapped and nonhandicapped workers as to sex, age, experience on the job, and kind of work performed. The plants, located in seven highly industrialized states, were classified with machinery, aircraft and aircraft parts, electrical machinery, steel works, and other industries, such as food products, photographic equipment and glassware."

The survey arrived at three further conclusions:

The production efficiency record of impaired workers was slightly superior to that of unimpaired workers.

Absentee rates for impaired and unimpaired workers, were identical, 3.8 days off per 100 scheduled work days.

Nondisabling injury rates were slightly higher for impaired than for unimpaired workers.

CONVENTION IN CONNECTICUT KNOCKS FEDERAL DICTATION

Hartford, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor (AFL), at its convention here, voted against continuance of jurisdiction by Government agencies in labor disputes.

The resolution unanimously adopted by the delegates stated that "so far as possible, labor and management should try to adjust their differences without the intervention of a Government tribunal" and that "facilities should be created making it possible for the union and the company involved to place the issues before an objective group of local, prominent labor and industrial persons who command the respect of all concerned to mediate such disputes, and who would have a better understanding of conditions in the area than outsiders."

AFL BREWERY DRIVERS WIN

Washington, D. C.—Local 67 of the Beer and Soda Water Drivers (AFL) has been certified by the NLRB to represent seven of this city's breweries and distributing agencies.

LIVING COSTS IN CITIES UP 2 PERCENT IN MONTH

Washington, D. C.—A recent report from the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that the price of goods and services commonly used by city workers with moderate incomes rose 2 percent between mid-July and mid-August. Food prices were upped approximately 3½ percent and other necessary articles advanced less than 1 percent. Price controls had been restored on four-fifths of the typical wage-earner's purchases at the time the survey was made, August 15.

MORE TIN PLATE

Washington, D. C.—The Civilian Production Administration has freed for general use an additional 15 percent of tin plate production, which earlier had been channeled to the manufacture of cans for such urgent items as perishable foods and pharmaceuticals. The modification, effective September 30, was adopted on recommendation of the industry's advisory committee.

D. C. LABOR GROUP PLANS 50TH BIRTHDAY BANQUET

Washington, D. C.—Plans are under way in the Washington Central Labor Union (AFL) for the celebration of its 50th anniversary October 19, highlighted with a banquet at the Mayflower Hotel. The organization has some 100 affiliated locals with a total membership of 200,000 in the Capital area.

President Truman, members of the Cabinet and other high-ranking Government officials have been invited to attend the celebration, in which 1,200 local labor representatives and civic groups will participate.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

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ELECT A BETTER
CONGRESS!

WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1946
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Southern AFL Unions Score Gains In Pay, Hours and Work Conditions

Washington, D. C.—Widespread gains in wages, hours and improved working conditions granted to AFL unions throughout the South are reported by George L. Googe, chairman of the AFL Southern campaign to enroll 1,000,000 new members.

Reports pouring into his office in Atlanta, Ga., Googe said, show AFL unions throughout the entire area have been negotiating improved contracts for higher pay, shorter hours and other benefits, and in the vast majority of cases, without resort to governmental agencies.

At the same time the Teamsters reported a new agreement between the Houston Building and Construction Trades Council and the Associated General Contractors providing a closed shop in 90 days. In Chattanooga, Tenn., the Parks and Playgrounds Department granted the Truck Drivers' local a substantial wage increase, and in the same city the Truck Dlivers' and Helpers' local in the Sears Roebuck unit won an NRLB election to become the bargaining agency for Sears' shipping department workers, truck drivers, warehousemen and helpers.

From Dallas came word that the Southern Pacific has signed a new agreement with the Teamsters providing a wage increase of 10 cents an hour and new classifications of workers not heretofore covered. Beneficiaries of the new agreement include 745 in Dallas, 47 in Fort Worth, 393 in Beaumont, 652 in Corpus Christi, 657 in San Antonio, 968 in Houston, 565 in Waco, 940 in Galveston and 941 in El Paso.

Highlights of Mr. Googe's report included the following:

Coke plant of Sharon Steel Co., Fairmont, W. Va., has selected District 50, United Mine Workers, as bargaining agent in an NLRB election. District 50 also has won two Florida NLRB elections, covering employes in Smith Co. and Merchants Fertilizer Co., both in Pensacola.

District 50 won $60,000 in annual increased wages in contract with Baruim Reduction Co., South Charleston, W. Va.

Chattanooga Drivers of Street and Electric Amalgamated (AFL), won a new contract providing 20-cent increase, improved vacation schedule and other benefits.

AFL bus drivers in Mobile obtained, by arbitration, a $50,000 back pay award averaging $200 for each worker.

AFL dry cleaners in Birmingham, Ala., won an election at the Utopia Cleaning Co. by a wide majority. This is the largest pressing plant in Birmingham and the smaller shops are expected to follow Utopia workers.

After a whirlwind campaign, workers of Southern Dairies in Atlanta came under the AFL Teamsters' banner. Wage increases are from $4 to $12 a week, hours are reduced from 66 to 54, overtime after 40 hours and paid two-week vacations are provided after one year's service.

Frey Charges Certain U. S. Agencies With Discrimination Against AFL

Atlantic City.—Addressing the annual convention of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters, John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, delivered a stinging rebuke to Federal agencies using discretionary powers to discriminate against the AFL.

Certain agencies are operating in such fashion that the public no longer can exercise control over them, he said. He cited the National Labor Relations Board as one office operating in a manner harmful to the AFL and "in obvious sympathy" with other labor groups.

NLRB Chairman Paul M. Herzog told the delegates there has been an enormous increase in the number of cases placed before the board, and asked for patience until they can be cleared. He said that in the first six months of this year the number of cases before the board rose from 4,900 to 7,400, and cited the $500,000 cut in appropriation forcing a reduction in staff.

Edward J. Hillock, secretary-treasurer, announced that total membership in the United States Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters was 201,000, an increase of 88,000 over 1942.

Hillock told 1,500 delegates to the union's 25th convention that the membership gain was made in face of withdrawal by 38,000 members and the expulsion of 30,000 more for nonpayment of dues.

The net assets of the union increased three-fold since the last convention at Cleveland in 1942, Hillock reported. He said there was $6,850,515 in the treasury as compared to $2,190,782 in 1942.

In a strong plea to the Plumbers to be on the alert against infiltration of Red agents, President Charles J. MacGowan of the Boilermakers told the convention:

"They will gain a foothold in the A. F. of L. unless we are on guard day and night."

MacGowan declared that "agents of Russia" have already bored into some local A. F. of L. unions, "with all their despicable doctrines of servitude that are worse than those under Hitler."

"They are trying to sell their ideas to the unthinking, spreading dissension where they can," he said. "Even in our own ranks it is hard to put a finger on them because they are so clever and adroit.

"Their efforts are sweeping Europe and South America and they are in control of factions of the CIO."

MacGowan's talk was brief and to the point, and when he closed he received an enthusiastic ovation.

YOUR TAXES AND MINE

This is the tenth of a series of 12 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the AFL Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

How High Should Our Taxes Be?

How much taxes should we pay?

Experts disagree on the size of the federal budget in the post-war period. Their estimates range from 16 billion to 28 billion dollars a year. Certainly, taxes will be much higher than before the war. Interest on the federal debt alone will be almost as much as the federal budget of pre-war years.

How hard will the taxes pinch us? Surprisingly, even though they will be higher, they need not be nearly as much of a burden as they were before the war!

The real question is, "How high will taxes be in relation to the total national income?" It's easy to see that when federal taxes were half what they are today, they were harder to bear because the national income was only one-third its present size.

The way to manage our tax bill, without an excess of pain, then, is to keep the national income high. Taxes should be high enough to pay for the necessary services of the government, without depressing the purchasing power of the people.

Here are some suggestions on tax policy that will help meet these standards:

—Remove federal wartime excise taxes (taxes on consumer goods)

—Raise income tax exemption or reduce rates drastically in lower income brackets

—Drop liquor and tobacco taxes as major providers of revenue

—Substantial increase in revenue from estate and gift taxes

It is believed by most tax economists that excise taxes and income taxes on the lower incomes cut down the consumption of essential goods, doing harm to the economy and to the people.

A good tax program is one that encourages consumption.

COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS HELD TO FIVE-CENT RAISE

Washington, D. C.—With its labor members dissenting on the ground that the full amount should have been approved, the Wage Stabilization Board sanctioned, for price purposes, 5 of an 8-cents-an-hour general wage increase recently put into effect in the cotton textile industry.

This 5-cent approval involves 44 New England mills employing 65,000 of the 90,000 textile workers in the northern branch of the industry, and 10 companies in the South employing 7,000 workers, and was approved in order to correct inequities between wages of cotton textile workers and the New England woolen industry workers.

INCOME TAXES DEMANDED ON BACK-PAY AWARDS

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Treasury decided that employers must withhold income taxes from back pay awards made to employes under decisions handed down by the National Labor Relations Board. This decision by the Treasury goes into immediate effect.

This decision reverses the practice in effect heretofore but is not retroactive. According to Commissioner J. D. Nunan, Jr., the policy change is the result of a Supreme Court decision regarding Social Security taxes last February 25, and evidently, Nunan says, applies also to income tax withholding.

AFL Chemical Union Expands 87.4%; Obtains Raises of 25 Millions In a Year

Houston, Tex.—The amazing growth of the International Chemical Workers Union (AFL) was set forth in detail in a report by the executive board to the annual convention of the union in session here, showing a membership increase of 87.4 percent in the last fiscal year.

Chartered just three years ago, the union now is spread over 36 States, the District of Columbia, three Canadian provinces and Newfoundland. As of July 31 of this year, register numbers had been assigned to 85,500 members.

In its report to the convention, the executive board said:

"Our Canadian membership has more than doubled in the past year.

"There has been a steady increase in the number of union shop contracts signed since the last convention and, with very few exceptions, our subordinate local unions have been successful in maintaining advantages gained during the war period. The majority of the subordinate locals have received substantial wage increases and, in round figures, the total wage increases during the past fiscal year is $25,000,000."

The board sharply condemned "government by edict" as reflected in the situation which forced AFL seamen to strike in an effort to obtain the full benefits of the agreement they had negotiated peacefully with ship owners and which was denied them by the Wage Stabilization Board.

"A confused administration," the board declared, "lacking the knowledge of the problems of labor, is attempting to hold labor to a set wage formula with a maximum of 18½-cent per hour increase since VJ-Day. Inflation is with us and we must return to free collective bargaining.

"Your Executive Board condemns the wage stabilization program in the worst possible manner. They insist on and will fight for free collective bargaining. We tender our support to the AFL and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in their attempt to do away with the vicious policy of labor relations by government edict."

Commenting on the activities of the Labor Department and its failure to grasp labor's viewpoint on vital issues, the board said:

"We believe that some of the confusion and strife between labor and employers could be overcome and government labor policy could be aided materially if the post of Secretary of Labor were filled by an experienced person from the ranks of labor. We sincerely hope that when this post again is vacant it will be tendered to one well experienced and qualified."

Radio Directors' Guild Chartered As 107th Union In Federation Family

Washington, D. C.—A charter for an international union was issued by AFL President William Green to the Radio Directors' Guild, which becomes the 107th national or international union affiliated with the Federation.

The jurisdiction of the new union will cover those who direct radio and television broadcasts.

Starting out with a nucleus membership of 1,000 organized into local unions in New York City, Chicago, Hollywood and Washington, the radio network origination points, it has a potential membership of 5,000.

George Zachary of New York City, temporary president of the union, announced plans to proceed at once with a campaign to organize radio directors in 860 local stations throughout the United States and Canada.

"The issuance of this charter," Mr. Green said, "completes the framework of AFL organization of all those engaged in the radio broadcasting industry. It means 100 percent unionization around the microphone."

Mr. Green pointed out that the Radio Directors' Guild has received pledges of support from all other AFL unions in the radio field, including the American Federation of Radio Actors and the American Federation of Musicians.

The charter members of the Radio Directors' Guild, besides President Zachary, include Edward Byron, New York, vice-president; Burr Lee, Chicago, vice-president; Paul Franklin, Hollywood, vice-president; Earl McGill, New York, secretary; Lyle Barnhart, Chicago, treasurer; Thomas Freebairn-Smith, Hollywood; Lawrence Beckerman, Washington; Theodore Corday, New York, and Newman H. Burnett, New York.

Mine Workers And Operators Re-Open Wage Negotiations

Washington, D. C.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), and soft coal operators resumed discussions here for an agreement which would permit the Government to relinquish operation of the pits and return them to private ownership, but there was no immediate indication of the reaction by either side.

In a frank statement following the initial meeting, Mr. Lewis told reporters:

"We still would like to know what the operators have to offer in lieu of the existing Government agreement. We're not even requesting continuation of Government control. As far as we're concerned, the Government is free to return the mines tomorrow."

Mr. Lewis informed all concerned that he had no new demands to make at the moment, and that the union was merely awaiting the proposals of the operators, which would be given study.

The conference was called by Adm. Ben Moreell, coal mines administrator, who opened the negotiations with the declaration that there was general agreement in the bituminous industry that it should solve its own problems. He expressed belief that both parties could stabilize conditions without Government intervention.

Admiral Moreell placed before the negotiators a set of proposals which he said he regarded as a basis for discussion of a new agreement. He urged both groups to study this plan, which included a definition of supervisory employes, one of the most critical points in this dispute. He suggested that a new contract run until April 1, 1948, with the proviso that the question of wages and hours could be raised by either side on 30 days' notice.

Admiral Moreell suggested no change in the provision in the Government contract for the 5-cents-a-ton levy against the mine owners for the union's welfare fund. The operators are not happy about this requirement, but it was believed they would accept it if the supervisory employe question could be settled to their satisfaction.

No change was suggested in the wage increase of $1.85 a day in the Government contract, but Admiral Moreell said that in the case of tonnage workers the increase might be applied at a tonnage rate. This would enable the more efficient and diligent miners to earn more than the men who do not come up to their standard of coal loading. It was reported Mr. Lewis approves of this change.

TRUMAN DOESN'T PLAN TO SUMMON CONGRESS FOR NEW LABOR CURBS

Washington, D. C.—President Truman indicated to a news conference that he has no intention of calling Congress back into session to increase his powers in curbing strikes or wage increase problems.

A reporter started to ask the President if he had such a move in mind, but without waiting for completion of the question Mr. Truman said that he already had taken steps as he regarded necessary to guard against inflation.

At the same time the President cited the proposed basis of settlement of the seamen's strike drafted by Stabilization Director John R. Steelman, but stressed that this was in no way a departure from the administration's general wage policy. He said, in substance, that the situation would have to be worked out and that he felt the Administration eventually would be able to do this.

SHOE SALESMEN WIN

San Francisco, Calif.—After a year and a half of negotiations, the Shoe and Textile Salesmen's Union (AFL) here has been awarded a shorter work week and higher wages for employes in 20 shoe stores.

DELEGATES ARE URGED TO WIRE FOR ROOMS

Delegates to the National Convention of the American Federation of Labor, opening at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago October 7, are urged to send in their applications for hotel reservations at once, to obtain confirmations.

Indications are that accommodations will be at a premium, and they are being made on a "first-come, first-served basis." Late applicants will necessarily be quartered in other hotels. Every effort is being made to provide maximum facilities for the convention delegates at the Morrison.

Applications for reservations should be addressed to Harry E. O'Reilly, Secretary of the AFL Convention Committee, Chicago Federation of Labor, 666 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

MISS PERKINS APPOINTED

Washington, D. C.—Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins was appointed by President Truman to the U. S. Civil Service Commission. She will be the only woman in the Administration who will report directly to the President.

Government Ends Ship Strike By Granting Full Wage Raise

New Plan of Steelman Requires U. S. to Meet Private Owners' Scale

Washington, D. C.—The Government granted the full wage demands of the Seafarers International Union in a strike settlement announced by Stabilization Director John Steelman with President Truman's approval.

The settlement was accepted immediately by Harry Lundeberg, president of the Seafarers, who predicted the union's members would ratify it. Ship operators on the West Coast previously had acceded to the terms.

AFL President William Green called the settlement a flat repudiation of the Wage Stabilization Board, which he accused of forcing the walkout by its "stupid stubbornness." He publicly called upon the industry and public members of the board to resign.

The Steelman plan accords to the AFL union's members the full wage increase which the union negotiated with management two months ago. It requires the ship operators to absorb that portion of the wage increase—$5 a month on the West Coast and $10 a month on the East Coast—which the Wage Stabilization Board refused to approve. The ship operators will not be permitted to pass on the cost of these extra amounts in the form of higher rates.

The Government, which still operates a large number of ships through the Maritime Commission, successor to the War Shipping Administration, must pay the full wage increase also, Steelman ruled. He based his decision on Federal laws requiring Government agencies to pay the prevailing rate of wages.

Commenting on the Steelman plan, President Green told newsmen:

"The plan announced by Stabilization Director Steelman for settlement of the shipping strike provides a workable solution of the dispute with full justice to the workers.

"It is tragic that the Wage Stabilization Board could not arrive at such a solution 10 days ago instead of forcing a walkout by its own stupid stubbornness.

"The Wage Stabilization Board now stands repudiated and disgraced. Its public and industry members have forfeited the confidence of the public and labor and should resign at once."

Both President Truman and Dr. Steelman emphasized that the approval of the seamen's pay boost does not affect the Government's basic wage stabilization policy. The regular wage-price formula still holds, Dr. Steelman told reporters.

The Steelman order directed that the agency in charge of operations by or for the Government might pay, or authorize to be paid, wages comparable to those paid by others in the industry. But only if the Government operations were less than half of the industry and a substantial part of the rest of the industry paid comparable wages.

New York Truck Strike Eased As Negotiations Are Resumed

New York City.—Negotiations for settlement of the trucking strike were resumed here after President Daniel J. Tobin of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters intervened in the local situation when it threatened to get out of hand.

Mr. Tobin, displaying statesmanlike leadership, called Mayor O'Dwyer to account for placing all the onus on a local union instead of persuading "the employers to accept the proposition you have made for a settlement."

At the same time Mr. Tobin sent telegrams to other teamsters' locals in the New York Metropolitan area ordering them to go back to work and live up to their contracts. These locals had no connection with the basic dispute but had quit work in sympathy with the strikers.

Immediate compliance with Mr. Tobin's orders started trucks rolling again, bringing in much-needed food supplies to the city whose store shelves had been almost emptied by a panicky buying rush.

Vice President Cashal and David Kaplan, economist for the Teamsters, pleaded with striking members of Local 807 at a mass meeting to reopen negotiations and their constructive advice finally was heeded. The negotiations were broadened to include two other striking locals.

Danger of a shutdown of all construction in the city was averted when the teamsters' locals in the building trades field resumed hauling building supplies in accordance with their contract, as Mr. Tobin instructed.

It was felt that, with the entire situation eased, a new agreement probably will be negotiated with management on terms acceptable to the local unions directly involved in the strike.

Truckers' Grievances Cited

New York City.—The case of the striking New York City truck drivers was presented clearly by a reporter who visited the group for an account of their grievances and the situations which they have been facing in recent years.

If the cost of living went back to 1940, he said they told him, they wouldn't be striking, but they complained bitterly that the public at large had no clear understanding of the difficulties they've been up against in trying to raise families in the face of the steadily rising cost of living.

When they report for work, as an example, they never knew whether there would be a day's work from the boss trucker, or whether they would have to plod on further. To get their jobs, they said, they were required to accept illegal overloads, 15, 20 and more tons on a truck rated at 5 tons.

"Everything overloaded except the pay check," they said.

A random check of teamsters showed those questioned had worked the following hours in the week before the strike started September 1: 40, 48, 16, 16, 24, 20, 24, 16, 16, 16, 32, average 24 plus. A 2-ton truck driver's daily rate is $9.54 an 8-hour day.

The drivers contended they had to take out overloaded trucks or lose a chance to the next man on the garage's seniority list.

The truckers asserted the Police Department should get after employers for illegal overloads; instead, they complained it was the drivers who got tickets for "retarding traffic."

The union members said their only pay raises in recent years were $2.50 for a 44-hour week, obtained in the September 1, 1944, contract, and $5 in the 1942 agreement. Besides pay demands, their proposals ask 8 hour's work a day, Monday to Friday, starting time of arrival at stable or garage until leaving, with overtime rates and a minimum of 8 hours on Saturday. Seniority would prevail in hiring, with any employe averaging 10 days' work in a 2-month period entitled to a listing. On overloading, no driver would be "compelled" to carry the excess weight, and he would be provided with a helper.

Statement on Seamen's Pay

Following is the text of the statement issued by the Office of Economic Stabilization in the seamen's wage case:

Stabilization Director John R. Steelman issued an amendment to wage stabilization regulations permitting the Government agencies to pay wages and salaries comparable to the wages and salaries paid for the same or comparable services by other operators in the same industry.

It has been the Government's policy to pay "prevailing rates" on Government jobs since Congress so directed the Navy in 1862. This principle has been implemented by various other congressional and executive actions, such as the Bacon-Davis and Walsh-Healy Acts.

The Steelman amendment would authorize those governmental agencies engaged in activity in which private business also is engaged, to pay in their own operations the same wage rates as those paid by a substantial portion of that industry.

Under present wage regulations if private industry desires to use a wage increase for price or rate increases, such increases must be submitted to the Wage Stabilization Board. This is not changed. The new amendment merely means that if the industry agrees to pay an increase under conditions which do not require Wage Stabilization Board approval, then the Government agency involved may pay the same rates without recourse to the Wage Stabilization Board or other stabilization agency.

The action was taken by Mr. Steelman with the recommendation of the chairman of the Maritime Commission.

Text of the amendment follows:

TITLE 32—NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Chapter XVIII—Office of Economic Stabilization.

Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Part 4001—Stabilization of wages prices supplementary wage and salary regulations (Q).

Supplementary wage and salary regulations are amended by adding a new section 205 to read as follows:

Section 205 — Wage or salary increases in Government operations. (A) In accordance with long-established governmental policy, the Government agency responsible for operations conducted by or for the United States may pay (or authorize the payment of) wages and salaries in such operations, comparable to the wages and salaries paid, for the same or comparable services, by other operations in the same industry. However, this applies only if both the following conditions are satisfied.

1. Such Government operations constitute less than half the total operations of the industry, when measured by either the total number of persons employed or the total dollar volume of business done; and

2. A substantial part of the remaining operations in the industry (as above measured) are paying the comparable wages or salaries.

(B) For the purpose of this section, "operations conducted by or for the United States" do not include operations in plants, mines of the United States under section 3 of the war labor disputes act or similar laws.

(C) A wage or salary increase made under the provisions of this section may be used as a basis for reimbursement by the United States, but shall be deemed an unapproved increase for the other purposes of these regulations; provided, however, that all other provisions of these regulations (except section 103) are superseded insofar as they are inconsistent with the making of a wage or salary increase (or reimbursement therefor) otherwise permitted by this section.

This amendment shall become effective September 12, 1946.

CONSTRUCTION IN AUGUST REPORTED 6% OVER JULY

Washington, D. C.—The Commerce Department announced new construction in August totaled $1,039,000,000, which approximates a 6 percent increase over July. About 80 percent of this August dollar volume was accounted for by privately financed construction of various types.

MORE FARM EQUIPMENT

Washington, D. C. — The Commerce Department estimated farm machinery and equipment production for 1944 and 1945 at $672,298,884 in 1944 and $757,879,300 for 1945. Sales in 1945 totaled $750,546,952, of which $661,466,410 were domestic and $89,080,542 were export sales. More than one-third of both production and sales during 1945 consisted of farm tractors.

CRUICKSHANK WILL ASSIST IN NEW MEDICAL PROJECT

Washington, D. C.—Nelson Cruickshank, AFL social security director has been named a member of the committee formed to set up a new labor health organization, with headquarters here. It will be known as the Labor Project for Medical Care and will serve both labor and management in promoting, establishing and maintaining prepayment medical care plans throughout the Nation.

DECORATORS GET RAISE

Washington, D. C.—Approval has been announced by the Wage Stabilization Board of a wage increase of 16 cents an hour for painters and decorators in the construction industry in the New York City area.

2 MAYORS PROCLAIM 'UNION LABOR WEEK' FOR ST. LOUIS SHOW

St. Louis, Mo.—Proclamations setting aside the period of October 29 to November 3 as "Union Label Week" were issued by Mayor A. P. Kaufmann of St. Louis and Mayor John T. Connors of East St. Louis, in recognition of Union Labor's big show which will be presented here at that time.

Mayor Kaufmann, in his proclamation, made public by I. M. Ornburn, director of the show and secretary of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, said in part:

"The Union Label has come to mean in the United States that the products on which it is borne are made in a factory or shop where adult workers labor under fair working conditions.

"The label is emblematic of the crusade which took children out of factories and shops and returned them to schools, where they may be inculcated with the highest principles of Americanism.

"Under the working conditions for which the Label stands this nation outstripped the world in production, both for peacetime and war use, and has attained what is by far the highest standard of living the world has ever known."

Mayor Connors said:

"A very large part of our city is dependent upon union labor for its existence. The emblems of union labor are union labels, shop cards and service buttons, the purchase and patronage of which tend to improve the living and working standards, not only of union members, but of all others who toil."

CZECHS ON PIECEWORK

Budapest, Hungary.—Some 85 percent of Czechoslovakian workers are about to be placed on a piecework basis, and the system already is in effect in 50 percent of Czech industries. The piecework system is aimed at higher production, officials said.